

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated March 3, 2005, and in accordance with the April 19, 2005 interview. Claims 1-4, 22-25, 43, 48, 53 and 58 have been amended solely to clarify the meaning of the existing claim language. No new matter has been added to the Claims. To Applicants' knowledge, no fee is due in connection with this Response. Nonetheless, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency of payment.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 2, 2005.

Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Office Action rejected:

(a) Claims 1-15, 17, 19, 22-36, 38, 40 and 43-62 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,651,985 to Sines et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,663,486 to D'Aurora et al. and Scarne's (New Complete Guide to Gambling);

(b) Claims 16, 18, 20, 37, 39 and 41 as being unpatentable over Sines in view of D'Aurora and Scarne's as applied to Claims 1-22, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,954,335 to Moody; and

(c) Claims 21 and 42 as being unpatentable over Sines in view of D'Aurora and Scarne's as applied to Claims 1 and 22, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,154,429 to LeVasseur.

As discussed during the interview, Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse such rejections. Applicants submit that none of the combinations of such references disclose, teach or suggest the following elements (among others) of un-amended Claims 1-42: enabling the player to input a single point value for determining when the point value of each of the player's hands satisfies a predefined relation to said single point value. Furthermore, Applicants submit that none of the combinations of such references disclose, teach or suggest the following elements (among others) of the un-amended Claims 43-62: enabling the player to input a single point value to which the point value of each of the player's hands must meet or exceed.

To make the language of the claims more clear as to this distinction, Applicants have made certain amendments as discussed during the interview. The un-amended Claims already provide that the single point value input by the player is used with

respect to each of the player's hands. The amendments submitted herewith reword this element in terms of such single point value being applicable to all of the player's hands.

Specifically, amended Claim 1 (and Claims 2-21 which depend therefrom) define a gaming device having the following elements, among others: a computing device operable to enable the player to input a single point value applicable to all of the player's hands, wherein the inputted single point value is used to determine if the point value of each of the player's hands satisfies a predefined relation to such inputted single point value. The combination of references used to reject such Claims does not disclose, teach or suggest such a gaming device. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 22 (and Claims 23-42 which depend therefrom) are directed to a method for operating a gaming device. This method has the following elements, among others: enabling the player to input a single point value applicable to all of the player's hands, wherein such inputted point value is used to determine when the point value of each of the player's hands satisfies a predefined relation to such inputted single point value. The combination of references used to reject such Claims does not disclose, teach or suggest such a method. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-42 are in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 43 (and Claims 44-47 which depend therefrom) are directed to a gaming device having the following elements, among others: a computing device operable to enable the player to input a single point value applicable to all of the player's hands, wherein said inputted point value is used to determine if the point value of each of the player's hands meets or exceeds said inputted point value. The combination of references used to reject such Claims does not disclose, teach or suggest such a gaming device. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 43-47 are in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 48 (and Claims 49-52 which depend therefrom) are directed to a method for operating a gaming device. This method includes the following elements, among others: enabling the player to input a single point value applicable to all of the player's hands, wherein such inputted point value is used to determine if the point value of each of the player's hands meets or exceeds such inputted point value. The

combination of references used to reject such Claims does not disclose, teach or suggest such a method. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 48-52 are in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 53 (and Claims 54-57 which depend therefrom) are directed to a gaming device having the following elements, among others: a computing device operable to enable the player to input a single point value applicable to all of the player's hands, wherein such inputted single point value is used to determine if the point value of each of the player's hands exceeds such inputted single point value. The combination of references used to reject such Claims does not disclose, teach or suggest such a gaming device. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 53-57 are in condition for allowance.

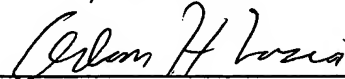
Amended Claim 58 (and Claims 59-62 which depend therefrom) are directed to a method of operating gaming device. This method has the following elements, among others: enabling the player to input a single point value applicable to all of the player's hands, wherein such inputted single point value is used to determine if the point value of each of the player's hands exceeds such inputted single point value. The combination of references used to reject such Claims does not disclose, teach or suggest such a method. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 58-62 are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY



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